fibers, said fabric penetrated from at least one side by melted synthetic materials of at least one of said adjacent natural fiber layers and said adjacent thermoplastic layers integrating into and reinforcing said at least one of said adjacent natural fiber layers and said adjacent thermoplastic layers.

Remarks:

Reconsideration of the application is requested. Claims 1-4 and 6-16 remain in the application. Claims 1 and 13 have been amended.

In item 3 of the Office action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-4 and 6-16 as being obvious over Gardill (U.S. 5,614,285) in view of Hawley's Condensed Chemical Dictionary under 35 U.S.C. § 103. The rejection has been noted and the claims have been amended in an effort to define more clearly the invention of the instant application. Support for the changes is found on page 11, lines 15-17 of the specification.

Before discussing the prior art in detail, a brief review of the invention as claimed is provided. Twice amended claim 1 calls for, *inter alia*, a multilayer composite body for the production of components or preforms, having the following features:

thermoplastic layers having synthetic materials;

natural fiber layers bonded with thermoplastic synthetic material; and

at least one reinforcing insert adjacent to said thermoplastic layers and said natural fiber layers, said at least one reinforcing insert having an open-pored fabric formed from fibers, <u>said fabric penetrated from at least one side by melted synthetic materials of at least one of said adjacent natural fiber layers and said adjacent thermoplastic layers integrating into and reinforcing said at least one of said adjacent natural fiber layers and said adjacent thermoplastic layers</u>. (Emphasis added by Applicant.)

According to the Examiner's analysis of Gardill, the scrim layer in Gardill is analogous to the reinforcing insert of the invention of the instant application. From the specification of Gardill, the scrim layer serves exclusively as a bonding agent that connects the mat and the layer of man-made materials (decorative layer). This arrangement is described in Gardill at column 2, lines 27-35. This section of the specification emphasizes that the scrim layer may be eliminated if the reverse side of the decorative layer and the mat are made of compatible materials. However, if the scrim layer were to form a reinforcement like the one claimed in the instant application, this could never be the case.

In a preferred embodiment of Gardill, the scrim layer forms a heat barrier layer (column 4, last paragraph). This heat

barrier layer is also not a reinforcing layer but rather a connecting layer with heat dampening characteristics.

Furthermore, Gardhill does not reveal that the scrim "is penetrated from at least one side by melted synthetic materials of the adjacent natural fiber layer or thermoplastic layer," as described in twice-amended claim 1. Contrary to the invention, the scrim layer of Gardhill solely connects superficially with the mat and with the decorative layer, whereby a connection is made; *see* Gardhill, column 5, lines 32-33 and claim 1, second paragraph. These sections of Gardhill require that a decorative layer is connected to one side of the mat via a scrim layer arranged therebetween. Therefore, a penetration with plastic materials from adjacent layers and a fixed integration as a reinforcing insert resulting therefrom cannot be obtained by Gardill.

Accordingly, none of the references, whether taken alone or in any combination, either show or suggest the features of claim 1 or claim 13. Therefore, claims 1 and 13 are patentable over the art. And, because all of the dependent claims are ultimately dependent on claim 1, they are patentable as well.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-4 and 6-16 are solicited.

In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, please telephone counsel so that patentable language can be substituted.

Petition for extension is herewith made. Please charge the extension fee for response within a period of one month pursuant to Section 1.136(a) in the amount of $55 in accordance with Section 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner and Greenberg, P.A., No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,

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LDP:cgm

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Amendments to the Claims:

Claim 1 (twice amended). A multilayer composite body for the production of components or preforms, comprising:

thermoplastic layers having synthetic materials;

natural fiber layers bonded with thermoplastic synthetic material; and

at least one reinforcing insert adjacent to said thermoplastic layers and said natural fiber layers, said at least one reinforcing insert having an open-pored fabric formed from fibers, said fabric penetrated from at least one side by melted synthetic materials of at least one of said adjacent natural fiber layers and said adjacent thermoplastic layers [integrated] integrating into and reinforcing said [fabric] at least one of said adjacent natural fiber layers and said adjacent thermoplastic layers [for reinforcement, said fibers of said fabric of said reinforcing insert being formed of materials selected from the group consisting of polyethylene terephthalate, polybutylene terephthalate, glass fibers, and carbon fibers].

Claim 13 (twice amended). A motor vehicle component or perform produced from a [multiplayer] multilayer composite, comprising:

thermoplastic layers having synthetic materials;

natural fiber layers bonded with thermoplastic synthetic material; and

at least one reinforcing insert adjacent to said thermoplastic layers and said natural fiber layers, said at least one reinforcing insert having an open-pored fabric formed from fibers, said fabric penetrated from at least one side by melted synthetic materials of at least one of said adjacent natural fiber layers and said adjacent thermoplastic layers [integrated] integrating into and reinforcing said [fabric] at least one of said adjacent natural fiber layers and said adjacent thermoplastic layers [for reinforcement, said fibers of said fabric of said reinforcing insert being formed of materials selected from the group consisting of polyethylene terephthalate, polybutylene terephthalate, glass fibers, and carbon fibers].